

Rally News

*RASC Friday Niter (October 13)

Rallymaster Mark Weber is looking to assemble the "staff": registration, scoring, and the CP crews. Plus volunteers for the course check a week or so before rally day. Volunteer with Mark Weber: <Markflyrod@aol.com>

*** 2006 Alcan: Ron's notes from the road...**

Aug 14: Left Kirkland. 9 cars, 22 bikes, 8 staff vehicles.

In his Subaru, Steve Brown and I follow the Odo Check on the freeway to "Mosquito Lake TSD" – the bridge was there this year and the roads were great. One cycle going for "most points wins" cruised through 20 minutes early! Rally delayed slightly by hailstorm and funnel cloud and car fire (not ours) before Williams Lake and "Soda Creek TSD". 1960 Morris Minor delayed in Hope with head gasket, only to blow again getting to Whitehorse. One rider fell on Soda Creek just prior to the last CP, no serious injury.

Aug 15: Quesnel 7am. "Blackwater Road TSD", beautiful forest and lake country. Then long gravel transit to Vanderhoof. "Fraser Lake TSD" is short loop off the highway. Another long transit to the 'Ksan Village native exhibits. "Kispiox TSD" ran 9 miles of paved, then gravel into the woods. "Critical turn" missed by one bike for Mitten forest road. Radio relay points set up for "last-point-seen" info. Rob/Nick/Marvin became cycle sweep and found the bike. On "rally frequency" (151.625) radio reached out 17 miles to let us know we could haul ass to the Cassiar, and 265 miles north to Dease Lake. Roadside wolf near Mitten, several bear at Medzian, and another big bear at Bell 2, got to Dease Lake after 10:30. Northway Inn stayed late – tab for four \$112.00

Aug 16 mid-morning: Telegraph Creek option. I'm working a control right now, very bizarre to be out here in the middle of nowhere and have wireless internet! This area pre-dates the Yukon Gold Rush and was part of the supply line for the Alcan Highway. Road has 20% grades and hairpins, narrow canyons and narrow bridges. Eric got photo of a red fox along the road. Steve and I are now pushing the herd toward Dease Lake, then north to Whitehorse. Dan and Eric are nine miles east waiting for us to report everyone has left here -- then they'll call to the front of the pack with a satellite phone, if needed.

Aug 16 late: Whitehorse -- no further mishaps or delays today. Beautiful country, and now it's actually Seattle-like weather, cool at 8pm

Aug 17: Four options today. Most of the motorcycles did the long gravel North Canol road, to NWT, and camped overnight. Nearly everyone else went to Skagway in dense fog and light rain, so few pictures other than the "Welcome to Alaska" sign. Skagway is pop. 692, on weekends, but several thousand when four cruise ships arrive. Think Disneyland in summer, with raincoats. It's a pretty town with buildings dating to 1898. We did a whirlwind tour up one side of the street then down the other. We were a small local attraction as teams walked around with our Alcan5000 caps. People would come up and ask how the rally was going and that they "didn't know it was coming to Skagway this year". Bizarre

Aug 18 early: TSD loop just outside of Whitehorse, then 340 miles straight to Dawson City. Weather here is broken clouds and blue sky. It's been a couple of long days and mostly 80mph runs between stays but the scenery is awesome.

Aug 18 late: Dawson YT. The trip up from Whitehorse is spectacular. There've been several forest fires since 1958 that devastated the forest, which is like sub-alpine fir on Mount Rainier, and white bark birch. On the highway you might come over a crest and all you can see in all directions is forest, in several shades of green. Highest elevation today was 3300 feet. Dawson is overcast and had rained last night and a bit yesterday, but nice today. We walked the whole business and tourist district in an hour, fought off the mosquitoes, and retired to the bar for beer, dinner, and stories from the motorcycles that did the NWT overnight. One broken collarbone; one sweep "off"; one bike versus lowboy – no damage.

Aug 19 early: Today there is a short TSD around Dawson and all but 4 teams are going to the Arctic Circle on the 600-mile Dempster trip. The "staff" and the rest of the teams are free to play tourist in Dawson, including some gold panning nearby on public claims. It is "Dawson Days" complete with a parade down Front Street... Steve and I explored a loop south of town into the goldfields, 52-mile or 102-mile options for next time. Gave brief route to Dan and Eric who ran it again. I was off on the "guess" as to where we started measuring, but we noted GPS readings. Super views from a radio tower, where Eric got pix of a ferret. It's finally getting dusk here at 11:00pm. Central and southern AK is getting unseasonable heavy rain and we may have some road "issues".

Aug 20: Up and out of Dawson early for the ferry across the Yukon River. The 8.6-mile TSD

was on the early part of the highway, then a transit over the "Top of the World Highway" to Alaska. The scenery is spectacular -- bleak and beautiful at the same time.

The border crossing into Alaska is on a narrow dirt road at Poker Creek AK, pop.2. The dirt lasted for a long time, interrupted by tour bus encounters, then Chicken AK, pavement, and lunch in Tok, AK, before another short TSD and a long, wet, transit to Fairbanks.

Aug 21: The rains in central Alaska washed out major highway bridges and some of the route through the mountains, so revised route instructions took us to Glenallen AK, through the mountains and storms, and then bright sun. We stopped just in time to miss three moose crossing the road! Several teams backtracked west from Paxson to the washout on the Denali Highway to take pictures -- some went further than others. After checking into the motel most everyone drove to Valdez AK, over spectacular Thompson Pass. Valdez is like Gig Harbor, but no outlying residential area -- it's just mountains all around the port, with lots of glaciers in sight, but was probably 75-degrees for us. Sunset on the mountains was spectacular in pink and light orange.

Aug 22: Last day, run to Anchorage, with a short TSD starting in the parking lot, then a lot of mountains and glaciers, before torrential rains in the mountains just north of Palmer, for a TSD climbing to Hatcher Pass. The road was washed out beyond the summit so I stood out in the rain to hold everyone. We had to dodge highway workers and equipment attempting to reinforce the roadbed against the river, so all our traffic held at a parksite until everyone had made the trip up the hill, to avoid opposing traffic in the repair areas. The run into Anchorage was wet, with very strong cross winds on the Palmer Flats -- scary for the bikes.

Dinner and awards at the Sourdough Mining Company, with free shuttle from the hotel, with a six-gun totin' "sourdough" driver.

Links at <http://www.rainierautosports.com/>

(This may get you to the three groups of pictures.)

* Congratulations to Revere Jones/Brian Deno/Tom Gould/ Subaru Outback for overall low score of just 118pts. 2nd: Frank McKinnon/John Putnam/Mustang: 133pts.

3rd and 4th were the BMW F650GS of Jim Roberts (237pts) and Ned Marandino (268pts), riding as #12 and #11.

The little Morris Minor of Kevin Kittle/ Tyler Irwin finished despite, uh, adversities, to collect the Vintage award.

RASC wants to thank Jerry Hines for once again orchestrating a marvelous tour. Special thanks to Colleen Hines for overcoming a non-life-threatening bowling injury to help where needed.

John Alkema, Paul Duchene, and Marvin Crippen did a little bit of everything, mostly motorcycle support from the Ford E350.

Kevin Barrows and Jeff Leirzapf in the white Dodge Ram 3500 were one of the sweep rigs, doing some work best-termed "logistics", too.

Joe & Shirley Gardner did a little sweeping, a lot of herding, and even a checkpoint in their Chevy K1500.

Steve Brown/ Ron Sorem worked checkpoints, as well as some course survey work months ahead of the rally. (Subaru Legacy)

Jim & Suzanne Elder did some sweep work, as well as "checking" the competitors.

Another "sweep" crew was Rob Dunn and Nick Marcuse in a big Ford Excursion.

Eric Horst / Dan Comden in the green Saab 900T did checkpoints and some of the scoring.

John Fouse / Dave Fetzner worked checkpoints, then had the shortest drive home, in the white Subaru WRX - they live in Anchorage.

* Gold Digger Rally, August 26/27

Hosted by the West Coast Rally Association

- 1-Martin Chung/ Christa Monasch/ Impreza; Calc (9pts)
- 2- Stephen Ban/ Chris Peake/ WRX; Calc (14pts)
- 3- RJ Carroll/ Ren Carroll/ Impreza; Unlim (22pts)
- 4- Gary Webb/ John Kisela / Subaru; Unlim (27pts)
- 5- Steve Perret/ Kathryn Hansen/ Subaru GL10; Paper (403pts)
- 6- William McRae/ Dave Harms /VW Beetle; Historic (1589 pts)
- 7- Gord Ryall / Jennifer Daly/ Subaru Legacy; Novice (1954 pts)
- 8- Aaron Wong/ Jason Ross/ Volvo 240; Novice (2079pts)
- 9- Neil Anderson/ Nick Chaschin/ Hyundai Pony; Novice (2176pts)
- 10- John Geelen/ Pete Adie/ Ford Escort GT; Calc (2721pts)
- 11- Matthew Glade/ Kevin Boothroyd / VW Rabbit Calc (3306pts)
- 12- Heather McKone / Paul Van Tassel/ VW GTI; Unlim (3332pts)

* Beaver Cleaver (8/12/2006) SCCA National Course Rally, Portland

- 1- Chuck Larouere (Murrysville, PA)/ Rick Beattie (Pittsburgh, PA)/ Ford (427pts)
- 2- Stu Helfer (El Cerrito, CA)/ Jack Von Kaenel (Arlington, VA)/ Ford (552pts)
- 3- Nick Reynolds (Sea-Tac, WA)/ Mike Daily (Seattle, WA)/ Dodge (632pts)

- 4- Mike Thompson (Lacrosse, WI)/ Fred Rosevear (Madison, WI)/ Chevrolet (670pts)
- 5- Brandon Harer (Portland, OR)/ Marcus Song (Portland OR)/ Pontiac (726pts)
- 6- Dave Teter (Newark, DE) / Dave Head (King George, VA)/ Chevrolet (742pts)
- 7- Bruce Gezon (Murrysville, PA)/ Fred Mapplebeck (Salem, NH)/ Ford (873pts)
- 8- Mike Nagle (Portland, OR)/ Steve Gaddy (Grand Forks, ND)/ Dodge (915 pts)
- 9- Richard Wetzel (Sacramento, CA)/ Charles Hanson (Indianapolis)/Porsche (1189 pts)
- 10- Jessica Toney (Redwood City, CA)/ J. Toney (Woodland, CA)/ Porsche (1294pts)
- 11- Don Gibson (Kent, WA)/ Mike Workman (Seattle, WA)/ Ford (1673pts)
- 12- Jason Stangland (Portland, OR)/ April Smith (Vancouver, WA)/ Geo (1809pts)

* Bob's 1460 Odyssey, 8/13 SCCA National Course Rally (UNOFFICIAL RESULTS)

- 1- Mike Nagle (Portland, OR)/ Steve Gaddy (Grand Forks, ND)/ Dodge (890pts)
- 2- Mike Thompson (Lacrosse, WI)/ Fred Rosevear (Madison, WI)/ Chevrolet (1061pts)
- 3- Brandon Harer (Portland, OR)/ Marcus Song (Portland, OR)/ Pontiac (1152 pts)
- 4- Stu Helfer (El Cerrito, CA)/ Jack Von Kaenel (Arlington, VA)/ Ford (1155pts)
- 5- Bruce Gezon (Murrysville, PA)/ Fred Mapplebeck (Salem, NH)/ Ford (1202pts)
- 6- Chuck Larouere (Murrysville, PA)/ Rick Beattie (Pittsburgh, PA)/ Ford (1246pts)
- 7- Dave Teter (Newark, DE)/ Dave Head (King George, VA)/ Chevrolet (1285pts)
- 8- Richard Wetzel (Sacramento, CA)/ Charles Hanson (Indianapolis, IN)/ Porsche (1373pts)
- 9- Jessica Toney (Redwood City, CA)/ J. Toney (Woodland, CA)/ Porsche (1477pts)
- 10- Jason Stangland (Portland, OR)/April Smith (Vancouver, WA)/ Geo (1539 pts)
- 11- Don Gibson (Kent, WA)/ Mike Workman (Seattle, WA)/ Ford (1904pts)
- 12- Steve Parret (Bellingham, WA)/ Kathryn Hansen (Friday Harbor, WA)/ Subaru (2276pts)

Club News

* Wild West stage rally was postponed due to the extreme fire danger this year. Whether RASC can man a stage for another date before December is doubtful.

TRMA

* Nolte took vacation to Midland, Texas to see the Chaparral racing cars museum. (The area resembles Moses Lake without anything to break up the horizon. Absolutely flat.) The museum is OK, just the cars on a big floor with a few exhibits about aerodynamics.

Researching for the visit, a few items were cleared up. Like the tie to Chevrolet: The test track and drivers did instrumented tests when the "unsafe at any speed" Corvairs needed tests to conclude there wasn't anything peculiar about the suspension. The relationship grew from there.

I also found a good story about the fabled wheels:

" I also would like to make something very clear here, that many do not grasp: The BBS company NEVER invented their product as they claimed for many years. They merely COPIED the 1966 and 1967 Chaparral wheels that Mr. Baumgartner (one of the "B" in BBS) had seen at the Nurburgring on Phil Hill's car.

The wheels were made from an original patent given to two engineers at General Motors, from an aesthetic design by Larry Shinoda, and the technology was given to Jim Hall. The system consisted in a hub center with integrally cast inner rim, with an outer rim of variable width bolted onto it with silicone sealant keeping the air from escaping. One of these designs did away with the drop center, so that in case of a flat, the tire bead would not fall inside the drop center. This "flat-rim" system is the one BBS copied, and it was without a doubt one of the most miserable and troublesome wheel design ever produced. The silicone-coated rims had to be first, pushed onto the tire on each side, the wheel center being bolted onto it afterwards. Each change of tire required a wheel disassembly. Many period "tire failures" were in fact wheel failures, in which either the wheel leaked because it was difficult to seal it properly, or the inner rim cracked due to the stress imposed upon it with this constant re-torquing. So as usual, the blame went to the tire manufacturers because the magazine writers knew less than zero about racing wheel technology. It's just there to hold the tire, right?"

RASC Calendar

Stage events in italics

- Sep 15 Friday Night Road Rally, Portland, OR
- Sep 17 "Ketchum - On the Fly" (NWRC Monte Carlo series) Start: Eastgate Park-n-Ride; Reg: 9:00am, FCO: 10am. Finish in Arlington. Cost: \$40(Day of the Event); NWRC member Preregister =\$25.00 NO PRE PAYMENT REQUIRED at time of pre-registration.... however, if you are requesting a specific number, first payment received for that number has priority For further info...contact the Rallymaster Tom Palidar at moss@eskimo.com
- Sep 24 "Churn and Turn" Primitive Rallycross, Portland, OR
- Sep 30 -- Oct 1 Maryhill Loops Hillclimb, Goldendale, WA
- Oct 7 Night on Bald Mountain, ORCA night TSD
- Oct 8 ORG SCCA 2006 Rally Cross #3 of 8, Oregon Rally Group
- Oct 13 Friday Nighter - RASC, Bellevue**
- Oct 21 Mt Hood Rally, ORG Regional Stage Rally (Hood River) Odell, OR*
- Oct 27 Friday Night Road Rally, Portland, OR
- Oct 28 Ghouls Gambol XL, Cascade Halloween TSD Portland, OR
- Oct 28 Midnight, night gravel TSD, Vanc. Is. Series #4 Duncan BC
- Nov 4 Armageddon XXIV, TSD, Bellingham WA (planning seems to be a Concrete-to-Concrete event.)
- Nov 10 Friday Nighter- ORCA Bellevue
- Nov 18-19 Totem, WCRA, (PCC series)

Rainier Auto Sports Club

will meet Monday, September 11 at 7:30 PM at Café Veloce at the Totem Lake shopping center. Best way I can think of to get there is north on I-405, take the "NE 124th" exit, then keep right under NE 124th and straight at the signal. This puts you on Totem Lake Blvd not whatever the frontage road is next to I-405. Then right first pass, with the Café on your right at that point.

Monthly meetings are the second Monday of each month. Past Members, visitors, and spectators are welcomed.

Agenda: Alcan review, with show-and-tell? Friday Niter plans (a.k.a, "The Draft") Wild West and fire danger rumors. Start of Totem rumors. Possibly a glimpse of all the RASC checkpoint clocks in one place. Unfinished business from August.

2006 Board Members:

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The Wishbone Alley Gazette

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